

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515  
April 30, 2025

The Honorable Douglas Burgum  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum:

We are writing to express our support for cost-effective, humane solutions to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Wild Horse and Burro Program. As you look to prioritize efficient spending in the Department of the Interior, we ask that you review the BLM's mismanagement of America's federally protected wild horses and burros.

We believe this is a unique opportunity to restore fiscal responsibility while upholding the will of the many Americans to preserve wild free-roaming horses and burros on western rangelands and protect them from inhumane management. Given your experiences with wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, we know you understand the appreciation the American public has for wild equines on the western landscape.

Based on the agency's own program information, it is clear that the BLM has not expanded its use of fertility control in wild horse and burro management. We strongly encourage BLM to support and adhere to congressional directives to adopt cost-effective, humane fertility control measures.

In Fiscal Year 2024, the BLM spent \$153 million on its Wild Horse and Burro Program - \$11 million more than Congress appropriated. Yet, less than four percent of these funds were allocated to humane fertility control. According to the BLM, each fertility control treatment costs approximately \$2,500 per mare. Meanwhile, the lifetime cost to care for a single horse in holding is nearly \$48,000.

In one Nevada herd area, a fertility-control program<sup>1</sup> prevented 690 births at a cost of \$182,000, compared to the \$35 million the BLM would have spent capturing and housing the same number of horses. In January of this year, the BLM's own National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommended that the agency increase its overall use of humane fertility control and begin applying it before reaching AML to prevent population spikes.

Investing in proven fertility control isn't just humane—it's the only responsible solution that actively addresses population growth on the range. If BLM allocated just 10 percent of its FY24 expenditures to fertility control, it could have prevented an estimated 5,508 foal births (assuming a 90 percent efficacy rate), ultimately saving taxpayers approximately \$249 million in removal and holding costs.

As you look for further reductions in BLM spending, we urge you consider taking the following actions:

- Increase the BLM's use of humane, reversible fertility control at scientifically efficacious levels;

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<sup>1</sup> Schulman, M. L., Hayes, N. K., Wilson, T. A., & Grewar, J. D. (2024). Immunocontraceptive Efficacy of Native Porcine Zona Pellucida (pZP) Treatment of Nevada's Virginia Range Free-Roaming Horse Population. *Vaccines*, 12(1), 96. <https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines12010096>

- Support budget reconciliation and appropriations measures that significantly reallocate BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program funding to humane, and reversible immunocontraceptive fertility-control vaccines; and
- Continue to uphold Congressional directives and Interior Department policy, including during the first Trump Administration, for non-lethal wild horse and burro management.

We look forward to working with you on this effort.

Sincerely,



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Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



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David Schweikert  
Member of Congress



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Juan Ciscomani  
Member of Congress



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Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress